IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 15, amend the paragraph starting on line 14 and continuing on page 16, to read:

--A guide groove 31 is formed in the opposite surfaces of the ~~front cover 22b~~ front cover 22 and attachment member 25 to movably support the control plate 30, which adjusts the opening of the air outlet 24. In the present embodiment, the control plate 30 constitutes a circular arc having the same curvature as that of contour of the ~~front cover 22b~~ front cover 22. The control plate 30 is slidably supported between the ~~front cover 22b~~ front cover 22 and the attachment member 25 so that its opposite edges are fitted into the guide groove 31. The movable range (the amount of opening and closing) of the control plate 30 is determined by the length of the guide groove 31 in the direction in which the air outlet 24 is closed. The movable range of the control plate 30 is determined by the abutment against a boundary step 35 in the direction in which the air outlet 24 is opened. The control plate 30 can be fixed to an arbitrary position using a frictional force acting on its part fitted into the guide groove 31.--

Page 16, amend the paragraph starting on line 3 to read:

--Further, the air outlet 24 partly has a normally closed area (normally closed portion) 34. The normally closed portion 34 extends between the ~~front cover 22b~~ front cover 22 and the attachment member 25. The air outlet 24 is closed by providing a bulkhead 29 between the ~~front cover22b~~ front cover 22 and the attachment member 25 to close the space. In the present embodiment, the bulkhead 29 is placed inside the control plate 30 and integrated with the rear surface of the ~~front cover 22b~~ front cover 22. The

boundary step 35 is formed at an intermediate position to prevent movement of the control plate 30, which slides upward. Further, a catching portion 36 is provided at each of the opposite ends of the control plate 30 so as to project radially outward. The control plate 30 can be easily opened and closed by catching the user's finger on the catching portion 36.--

Page 18, amend the paragraph starting on line 14 and continuing on page 19, to read:

--The rear case 12 of the external cylinder 13 and the internal cylinder 14 are concentrically arranged and connected together by a wall 17. ~~The length L1 of the internal cylinder 14~~ The length L2 of the internal cylinder 14 is set about one-fifth of ~~the length L2 of the external cylinder 13~~ the length L1 of the external cylinder 13 between inner walls. The sound absorbing material 19 is bonded to an inner surface of the external cylinder 13 and to an outer surface of the wall 17 including the external air inlet 15 in the internal cylinder 14. In this case, parts of the sound absorbing materials 37 and 19 which is located in the exhaust port 16 also serve as air filters; the sound absorbing material 37 covering the external air inlet 15 and the sound absorbing material 19 is placed on the inner peripheral surface of the external cylinder 13. The detachable pre-filter 38 externally covers the external air inlet 15. In the present embodiment, the pre-filter 38 is detachably installed outside the sound absorbing material 37, which covers the external air inlet 15. The pre-filter 38 is composed of, for example, a non-woven fabric filter 39 and a presser ring 40 that holds the periphery of the non -woven fabric filter 39. The pre-filter 38 is fixed without using any screws, by fitting the presser ring 40 into a concave portion at an end of the sound deadening cartridge 10 which is closer to the external air inlet. The pre-filter 38 is

detachably installed. To facilitate an attaching and detaching operations, the presser ring 40 has four elastic pawls 41 disposed on its circumference; the elastic pawls 41 comprise projections with a small height of about 0.25 mm and can be deformed in an internally radial direction. The elastic pawls 41 are utilized to fix the presser ring 40 and to remove it from the cartridge 10. The pre-filter 38 is used to capture large contaminants, dust, pollen, and the like, which are entrained in introduced external air, to prevent them from entering the sound deadening cartridge 10. Accordingly, simple replacement of the pre-filter 38 prevents the sound absorbing materials 37 and 19, also serving as air filters, from being clogged. This makes it possible to increase the amount of time before the sound deadening cartridge main body must be replaced with a new one.--